

**IDENTITY OF *SYRISTA SPECIOSA* MOCSÁRY AND NOTES ON THE GENUS  
*UROSYRISTA* MAA (HYMENOPTERA: CEPHIDAE)**

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*Abstract.*—The holotype of *Syrista speciosa* Mocsáry, described from Vietnam, is re-described and illustrated and confirmed as belonging to the genus *Urosyrista* Maa. Possible characters are presented to separate it from other species of this southeastern Asian genus.

*Key Words:* Cephidae, *Urosyrista*, stem sawflies

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In the treatments of world Cephidae (Benson 1946, Muche 1981) and Asian Cephidae (Maa 1944, 1949), the species described as *Syrista speciosa* by Mocsáry (1904), an unusually large and colorful cephid from “Tonkin,” has never been studied and confidently placed. Benson (1946) placed *S. speciosa* in his new genus *Cephalocephus*, qualifying it with the statement that “it seems almost certain” that it belongs to this genus. Maa (1949) synonymized *Cephalocephus* with *Urosyrista* which he had described earlier (Maa 1944). Although Maa (1949) did not see *Cephalocephus xanthus* Benson, the type species of *Cephalocephus*, both generic descriptions are almost identical and their synonymy cannot be disputed. Maa (1949) did not mention *S. speciosa* or put it in his key to species of *Urosyrista*. Muche (1981), who based much of his work on the literature, placed *S. speciosa* in *Urosyrista* but did not include it in his key to *Urosyrista* species, which was taken directly from Maa (1949).

Here, I redescribe, illustrate, and confirm the generic placement of *Syrista speciosa* based on examination of the holotype.

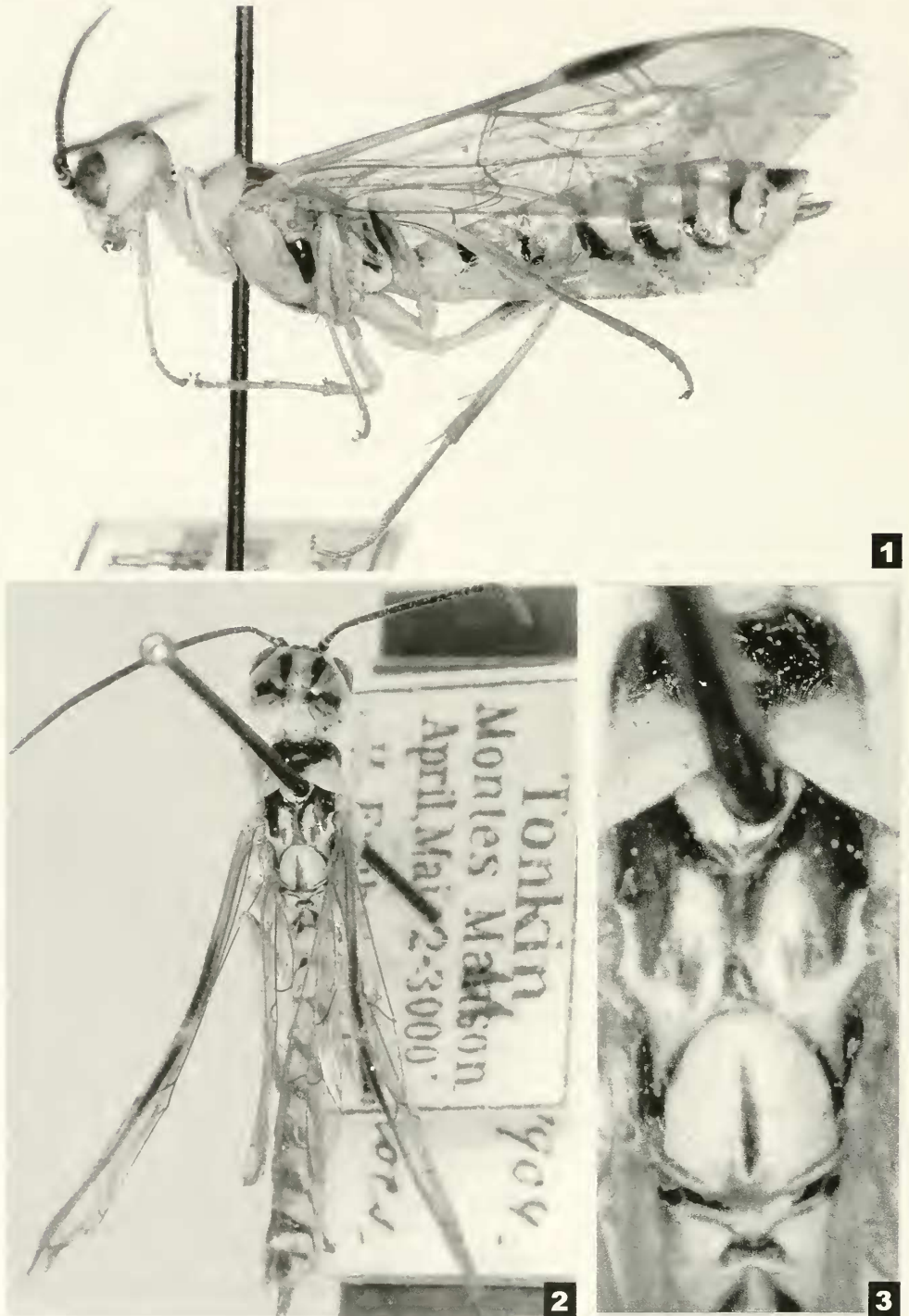
*Urosyrista speciosa* (Mocsáry)  
(Figs. 1–9)

*Syrista speciosa* Mocsáry 1904: 496. Female. “Tonkin: Montes Mauson, in altitudine 2–3,000 pedum a H. Fruhstorfer detecta. (Mus. Hung.)”

*Cephalocephus speciosa*: Benson 1946: 100.

*Urosyrista speciosa*: Muche 1981: 265.

Description.—Length, 16 mm. Head and body smooth, shining, without punctures. *Color*: Yellowish with black markings (as shown in Figs. 1–9); antenna pale yellowish ventrally, black dorsally, with basal 3 segments black. Wings hyaline, apices slightly blackish; most of stigma black, and veins dark brown, costa and margins of stigma yellowish. *Head*: In dorsal view, enlarged and swollen behind eyes, elongated, 1.2× broader than long, distance behind eyes 1.3× eye length; distance from front ocellus to hind margin of head 3× distance from front ocellus to antennal sockets. Antennal-tentorial distance 2× distance between antennae. Antenna 30-segmented. Left mandible bidentate, subapical tooth slightly longer and stouter than apical tooth, without



Figs. 1-3. *Urosyrista speciosa*. 1, Lateral view. 2, Dorsal view. 3, Dorsal view of thorax.



Figs. 4-6. *Urosyrista speciosa*. 4. Head, front view. 5. Head, lateral view. 6. Head, dorsal view.



Figs. 7-9. *Urosyrista speciosa*. 7, Thorax, lateral view. 8, Apex of abdomen and sheath, lateral view. 9, Apex of abdomen and sheath, dorsal view.

intermediary tooth (Fig. 4). Sixth segment of maxillary palpus originating from near apex of 5th segment; segment 4 about  $1.5\times$  length of segment 6. *Thorax*: Forewing with anal crossvein. Hindwing with cubital

cell. Hindtibia with 2 preapical spines. Mid-tibia with one preapical spine. Hindbasitarsus subequal in length to remaining tarsal segments combined. Tarsal claws bifid, inner tooth about as long as outer tooth, with-

out basal lobe. *Abdomen*: Cercus less than half length of sawsheath (Figs. 8, 9). Sheath as in Figs. 8, 9; in dorsal view, thick and parallel sided; length about .6× length of basal plate and slightly less than half as long as hind basitarsus.

*Holotype*.—Female, labeled “Tonkin, Montes Manson, April, Mai, 2–3,000’, H. Fruhstorfer,” “Typus 1904 *Syrista speciosa* Mocs.” (red label). The third label on the pin is a blank red label. In the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

*Discussion*.—Almost all characters of *Syrista speciosa* are consistent with *Urosyrista*, and placement in this genus is correct according to generic definitions and keys by Maa (1944, 1949), Benson (1946), and Muehe (1981). Some minor differences are the lack of a basal swelling on the tarsal claws (according to Benson 1946 the claws have a small basal swelling) and the subapical tooth of the left mandible which, although longer than the apical tooth, is not as large in relation to the apical tooth as figured by Benson (1946, fig. 13). Unique characters for *Urosyrista* in the Cephidae are the enlarged head behind the eyes (Figs. 5, 6), the lack of an intermediate tooth and large inner tooth of the left mandible (Fig. 4), the apical segment of the maxillary palpus emerging from near the apex of the fifth segment, and the bifid tarsal claws, lacking a basal lobe.

*Urosyrista* is known only from southeastern Asia, and three species are currently included: *U. speciosa* (Mocsáry) from Vietnam; *U. montana* (Maa) (= *Cephalocephus xanthus* Benson according to Maa 1949) from China and Burma; and *U. mencioyana* Maa from China. Maa (1949) considered three color forms of *U. mencioyana*, the typical form, var. *unicolor* Maa, and var. *xanthobalteata* Maa. All three are separated by the amount of black on the pronotum. The host plant is known only for *U. mencioyana*; specimens were reared from *Acanthopanax trifoliatum* (Lour.) Merr. (Araliaceae) (Maa 1944).

*Urosyrista speciosa* appears to be most

similar to *U. montana* because they share the thick, parallel sided sheath in dorsal view. The sheath of *U. mencioyana* is slender and gradually tapering toward its apex. I hesitate to use coloration. In species as these with numerous black markings, variation in the amount of black can be extensive. Maa (1949) has alluded to this by separating several color forms of *U. mencioyana*. However, as it may be useful, *U. speciosa* is more extensively yellow than the other two species and the antennae are black dorsally, pale whitish ventrally, with the basal three segment entirely black. *Urosyrista montana* has the antennae apically dull brown to black, basally distinctly paler, and the mesepisternum mostly black with a median yellow band. *Urosyrista mencioyana* has the antennae apically yellow, basally distinctly darker, and the head and thorax mostly black.

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